

Floyd County Public Defender's Office Frequently Asked Questions

Following is a compilation of questions our office answers on a daily basis. Please check to see if your question can be answered here prior to calling the public defender's office. If you still need assistance, please call our office at 812-981-0350.

How do I know who my Public Defender is?

Your public defender is assigned to you at your initial hearing or first court date. The judge will assign your case to a criminal court based on the offense. Your file is then handed over to the Public Defender Agency paralegal of that court. The paralegal will then assign your case to a public defender. This process usually takes 2 or 3 days.

How do I contact my Public Defender?

Once you know who your public defender is, you may contact him/her via telephone, mail, or e-mail (if available). Please refrain from sending e-mails discussing the details of your case. Confidential communication with your attorney should be in person.

Please understand our public defenders spend a lot of time in the courtroom and may not be available to return your calls right away. Leave a detailed message on his/her voice mail with a case number and contact phone number. You may also contact the paralegal by clicking on Paralegals by Court.

NOTE: If you have an emergency (i.e. you can't make it to your court date) and you can't reach either your public defender or paralegal, you should contact the court directly.

How do I get my conviction appealed?

If you are indigent, the judge must appoint the Appellate Division of the Floyd County Public Defender Agency to represent you on appeal. Tell the attorney who represented you at trial you want to appeal and ask him/her to file a motion to have the judge appoint us. If that doesn't work, write directly to the judge and tell him/her you would like to appeal your conviction and have the Appellate Division appointed to represent you.

Who is entitled to a public defender to represent a defendant on appeal?

Anyone convicted to a crime; anyone whose parental rights have been terminated; anyone who has had probation revoked; any child who has been adjudicated a delinquent.